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News Release

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San Bernardino County Veterans benefit with Partnership with Superior Court and VA Medical Center

Loma Linda, Calif. —Veterans given a second chance by the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program will celebrate their success this week at the Program Graduation. The VJO is a partnership with San Bernardino County Superior Court and VA Loma Linda Healthcare System to reach out to veterans who have difficulty readjusting to civilian life, to give them a second chance. Any veteran returning from war with PTSD, depression or other combat-related issues can greatly affect their day-to-day lives. Some of these men and women turn to drugs, alcohol or exaggerated anger to deal with the aftermath of combat and wind up in the criminal justice system. The program diverts veterans with non-violent crimes from jail and into appropriate VA rehabilitative programs. Veteran's sentences are either delayed or replaced with mandatory treatment plans. During the treatment process, each veteran's case is reviewed by the judge to determine their progress. Failure or disobeying a court order will result in arrest. VA's treatment team and the judge work closely together to keep the veteran on track and on the road to recovery. This program began in January 2009. This is the first round of graduations with 10 veterans who have successfully completed the program and moved forward in their lives.

Nationally programs like this have shown that the veterans who successfully complete the program are less likely to repeat the behaviors that resulted in their introduction to the court system.

Graduation will be held on Friday, July 16 at 2 p.m. at the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System.

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